

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OPERATIONS CENTER**POLAND WORKING GROUP**

Situation Report No. 33

Situation in Poland as of 1700 EST December 27, 1981

25X1

After two weeks of military rule the situation is outwardly calm but still far from resolved. More than 1,000 miners continue their occupation strike in the Piast coal mine in Silesia; a secret communique issued by Solidarity sources claim that other striking miners have been rooted out of their mines with gas and forced back to work at gunpoint.

Reuters reports increasing signs that Poland's economy has suffered serious damage because of a lack of telephone and telex communications. There was virtually no traffic on the streets of Warsaw today. The coming week is regarded as a major test of whether some martial law restrictions can be relaxed as well as of the depth of workers' resistance which centered in the two vital economic sectors in widely distant regions -- the Baltic shipyards and the Silesian coalfields. While the former seem to be "pacified" for the present, they remain potential trouble spots.

Vatican City press reports indicate that ongoing negotiations between the Catholic Church and the military regime in Warsaw have resulted in the release of 800 prisoners. Meanwhile, in the first report of this type, an unconfirmed British press report states that one soldier has been executed for disobeying orders and for desertion.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in an interview with South German Radio, appealed to the Soviet leadership not to hinder Poland on its path to renewal and reform and reminded the Soviet Union of the responsibility which it bears for the Polish situation. At the same time, however, Genscher defended Bonn's cautious position and said that all states -- in the West as well as the East -- should resist the temptation to interfere. He said it was vital that the Polish leadership lift martial law rapidly and release those interned so that dialogue with the Church and with Solidarity could resume.

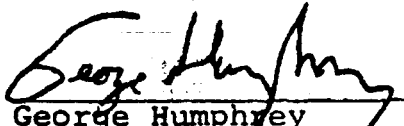
25X1


CONFIDENTIAL

GDS 12/27/87 (HUMPHREY, GEORGE)

State Dept. review completed

Embassy Moscow reports that the Soviet media are continuing their efforts to drive a wedge between the US and the European allies with regard to their respective attitudes on the Polish situation. Supposed differences between Europe and the US were highlighted by a prominent commentator (Bovin) on Soviet television, who, explaining that Europe -- unlike the US -- favors above all a stable Poland, remarked that, "While Reagan rages, European leaders are silent." Assistant Secretary Eagleburger's mission in Europe was termed "gross pressures on the European countries" in a TASS commentary; TASS later pointed out German reluctance to adopt sanctions and the "caution" Mr. Eagleburger has encountered in his attempts to persuade British, French, and Italian Foreign Ministers to follow the American example. Pravda mocked Western speculation on "Soviet intervention", claiming that "imperialist circles" hope events will evolve in such a way that such intervention will be inevitable and then used as a pretext for breaking off arms talks.


George Humphrey
Poland Working Group


Adriaen Morse
Senior Watch Officer

CONFIDENTIAL

GDS 12/27/87 (Humphrey, George)